

Military Combat Eye Protection Program

The MCEP Program tests commercial protective eyewear to military ballistic and ANSI Z87.1 standards. Suitable products are then tested by Soldiers and reviewed by a panel of Users, engineers, logisticians, and optometrists, prior to approval for placement on the Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL).

The Program increases competition and gives the Soldier a variety of choices at a lower cost. Allowing Soldiers to select protective eyewear based on mission need and style increases acceptance and decreases injuries.



Eyewear is available for commanders, units, and CTF's to purchase by submitting requisitions into the standard supply system. Each approved product has an assigned National Stock Number (NSN). In addition, items can be purchased from: *E-Mail* ([https://email.prod.dodonline.net](mailto:email.prod.dodonline.net)).

Rapid Fielding Initiative

The CSA's Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) provides free issued spectacles and goggles from the APEL for deploying Soldiers.

Product Manager Clothing and Individual Equipment (PM-CIE), product office under

PEO SDR is also fielding protective eyewear to Initial Entry Soldiers in coordination with TRADOC and MEDCOM in FY06-07 to increase protective eyewear use, to promote the concept of "train as you fight", and ensure Soldiers are comfortable in a combat environment with protective eyewear.

Operational Eye Injuries

Top 3 Causes of Eye Injury OIF/OEF (Evacuated from theater)

-IED	160/283	56.5%
-RPG	22/283	7.7%
-Shrapnel	16/283	5.7%



Eye Injuries account for over 10% of combat related injury. The most common causes are explosives (IED, RPG and shrapnel) or environment (foreign body). Eye injuries have

increased in every conflict and continue that trend. Combat Eye Protection is a must for every Soldier!

MCEPP Awareness Campaign

Many unit commanders and supply agents are aware that National Stock Numbers (NSNs) are available and they are familiar with the procedures for ordering and issuing APEL products. However, the individual Soldier also procures eyewear products, from on-post and commercial vendors, and often relies on the word of friends, clever advertising, or impulse buying when making his choice. Unfortunately, not enough of these Soldiers have knowledge of the APEL.

**AUTHORIZED
PROTECTIVE
EYEWEAR
LIST (APEL)
APPROVED**

APEL approval sticker

PM-CIE is working closely with AAFES stores, to link the APEL with the products through advertising within each store. APEL requirements and the products list will be posted in each AAFES store, and APEL products will be separated from sport and leisure eyewear. In addition, each APEL product container will display a label to indicate that it has been tested and approved for combat by the Army.



*"Combat Eyewear - Your Sight
Your Choice"*